

DRAFT HANDOUT

PUBLIC HEARING ON EPA'S DRAFT NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (NPDES) PERMIT KAMPACHI FARMS, LLC – PERMIT NUMBER FLOA00001 JANUARY 28, 2020

Public Hearing Logistics and Agenda

This public hearing is being conducted on the draft National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit and draft National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) Assessment for a marine aquaculture facility in the Gulf.

Please register to speak if you have not done so already. Oral comments will be limited to five minutes for each person to ensure more opportunities for interested persons to speak. Depending on the number of participants that register to speak, EPA may reduce the time allowed for oral comments to three or four minutes. Every effort will be made to accommodate all requests for speaking time; however, EPA cannot guarantee that all persons will have an opportunity to contribute oral comments. The hearing will begin with a brief presentation by the EPA and a neutral process facilitator, followed by oral comments from interested persons.

Public Hearing Agenda

- 5:00 PM Doors Open and In-person Registration Available**
- 5:30 PM Introductory Remarks by Presiding Officer**
Presiding Officer – Jeaneanne Gettle, Division Director, Water Division, EPA Region 4
- 5:40 PM Public Hearing Process**
Facilitator – Jan Connery, Eastern Research Group, EPA Contractor
- 5:45 PM Public Comment Period**
- 9:15 PM Closing Statements**
Presiding Officer – Jeaneanne Gettle, Division Director, Water Division, EPA Region 4

Commented [TK1]: Note that this order differs from the Opening Statements. This order reduces the back and forth between Jan and Jeaneanne. Thoughts?

Public Comment Procedures

The public comment period has been extended until February 4, 2020. Persons wishing to provide EPA with comments or other information on any aspects of the draft NPDES permit or draft NEPA document may: (1) submit written comments at the hearing; (2) present oral comments at the hearing; (3) submit comments electronically to R4NPDES.Kampachi@epa.gov; (4) fax comments to 404-562-9772; or (5) send written comments to EPA at: Environmental Protection Agency Region 4, Water Division, NPDES Permitting Section, Attention: Mr. Kip Tyler, 61 Forsyth Street S.W., Atlanta, Georgia, 30303.

Following the Public Hearing

Following the close of the public comment period, EPA will consider all comments received. EPA will prepare a document known as a response to comments that briefly describes and addresses significant issues raised during the comment period and what draft permit provisions, if any, have been changed as a result of comments received and the reasons for the changes. EPA will make a final permit decision and forward a copy of the final decision to the applicant and each person who has submitted written comments or requested notice. If the permit is issued, a public notice of the final NPDES permit decision will be published in the Sarasota Herald Tribune. The complete final permit decision and the response to comments will be available on the EPA website as well.

Obtaining More Information

More information about the draft NPDES permit, draft NEPA document, public comment procedures, appeal procedures, public notice, proposed facility information, public hearing transcript, and any supporting documents can be obtained from EPA using the contact information below:

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Website: [HYPERLINK "<https://go.usa.gov/xda3w>"]
HYPERLINK "<mailto:R4NPDES.Kampachi@epa.gov>"]

Telephone: 404-562-9750

E-mail: [

Proposed Facility Information

Kampachi Farms, LLC is proposing to operate a pilot-scale marine aquaculture facility (Velella Epsilon) located in federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico at approximately 45 miles southwest of Sarasota, Florida. The project would culture approximately 20,000 Almaco Jack and produce a maximum annual harvest of 88,000 pounds. The fish raised in the cage will be sourced from brood stock that were caught in the Gulf. A single floating cage will be placed at a water depth of approximately 130 feet. The cage is fully enclosed submersible fish pen that will be deployed on an engineered multiple anchor mooring system. The facility would include a supporting vessel throughout the life of the project.

Commented [TK2]: This is a legitimate government sanctioned website that creates smaller URLs. Does anyone have a problem with using this link instead of the much longer link?

NPDES Permitting Process

The NPDES permit program, created by the Clean Water Act, is the basic tool for regulating the discharge of pollutants from point sources into waters of the United States. The Clean Water Act requires that NPDES permits include conditions stringent enough to ensure that discharges do not cause violations of the water quality standards where the discharge originates. More information about EPA NPDES permits and permits relating to aquaculture can be found at the following two websites:

1. [HYPERLINK "<http://www.epa.gov/npdes/about-npdes>"]
2. [HYPERLINK "<http://www.epa.gov/npdes/npdes-aquaculture-permitting>"]

Summary of NPDES Permit Conditions

The draft NPDES permit authorizes the discharge of industrial wastewater from a marine net-pen aquaculture facility. The draft permit includes many conditions to protect the Gulf and ensure no unreasonable degradation of the marine environment occurs. A summary of the main NPDES permit conditions that Kampachi Farms must implement to protect the environment and collect reliable information are provided below:

1. **Environmental Monitoring** – The permittee will be required to monitor and sample environmental parameters that are sufficient to assess the impact of the facility's discharge on water, sediment, and biological quality. The monitoring conditions in the permit include facility operational parameters, 12 water quality parameters, and 9 parameters related to sediment and benthic quality. The monitoring must happen at three locations: 1) up-current of the facility (background); 2) at the facility discharge; and 3) down-current of the facility.
2. **Best Management Practices** – The Best Management Practices (BMPs) are required as non-numeric discharge limitations to prevent or minimize the discharge of wastes and pollutants to the Gulf. The permittee must develop and implement BMPs for feed management, waste collection and removal, material storage, structural maintenance, training, and record keeping.
3. **Facility Damage Prevention and Control** – The Facility Damage Prevention and Control conditions ensures that the facility can be operated and maintained to mitigate any environmental impacts during natural and man-made disasters. These conditions are designed to prevent the release of fish from entering the Gulf. The Permittee is required to develop procedures dealing with fish containment, fish transfer, disaster prevention practices, and disaster cleanup.
4. **Quality Assurance** – The permittee is required to develop and implement Quality Assurance provisions to ensure that the environmental data collected during the permit term is reliable and accurate. The Quality Assurance conditions are designed to support sample collection and analysis, document representative sampling conditions of all monitoring activities, and document data anomalies at the facility, in the discharge, and in the Gulf.